

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that the drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the Official Action.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1-22 and 26 contain allowable subject matter, on the first page of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 23-25 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 1-22 and 26 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that the only outstanding issue noted by the Examiner in the Official Action was the presence of non-elected claims 23-25. Applicant notes that claims 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of the allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In regard to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 3 of the Official Action, Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that various features of this claim are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. However, Applicant wishes to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art. Thus the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those mentioned by the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Entry and consideration of the present amendment and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Rogerio Jun MIZUNO


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Daniel B. Moon
Reg. No. 48,214

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191